



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

MIKE GABBARD
COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT I
CHAIR, PARKS COMMITTEE
PH: (808) 547-7001 • FAX: (808) 550-6917
mgabbard@co.honolulu.hi.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: Editors/News Directors
FROM: Mike Gabbard 547-7001 or 371-5188

GABBARD'S CHOICE FOR OAHU'S NEW LANDFILL SITE

HONOLULU – DECEMBER 21, 2003 – COUNCILMEMBER MIKE GABBARD WILL TRAVEL TO the mainland early in January to meet with executives and to tour at least two landfill facilities owned and operated by national waste management firms. Discussions with representatives of the firms have led Gabbard to believe that there is definite interest in winning a contract with the City and County of Honolulu to ship its waste to a mainland landfiling site.

"The clock is ticking for the City to find a new landfill," Gabbard said. "I've met with consultants who tell me there is a very good possibility we could ship our trash to the mainland in a safe, cost-effective way. Obviously nobody on Oahu wants a landfill in their backyard. If there are people on the mainland who WANT our trash, I say 'More opala to 'em!' That's why I'm calling this project 'Ship It Out!'"

The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Landfill Siting Task Force recently recommended four possible sites for a new municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill, one in Kailua and three in Wai'anāe. The current landfill, Waimanalo Gulch, also located in Wai'anāe, is slated to be closed in May 2008. The City Council, which must select the location of the next MSW landfill by June 2004, is not bound by the Task Force's recommendations.

"We need to start thinking 'outside the island' given our limited land availability," Gabbard said. "It's too soon to call this an early Christmas present but, given the choice, I'd pick the mainland over Wai'anāe or Kailua for our next landfill in a Nanakuli second. Certainly there are a number of issues to be resolved and that's why I'm planning to visit the site in early January. I can't make any promises at this point, but I don't want to leave a single stone unturned in our search for an answer to Oahu's landfill problem."

"Cost is key," Gabbard said. "We'd want to keep the cost of shipping our trash off-island to about the same amount it costs the taxpayer to handle it here. But even if it's a bit more, I think most people would be willing to pay a little extra if it meant not having to ruin another beautiful valley or creating a stinking eyesore on the aina. I know the people of Windward and Wai'anāe would agree!"

A number of municipalities in Alaska currently ship their MSW to the Washington State facility Gabbard will visit in January.